

The **Board of Examiners for Nursing** held a meeting on March 18, 2020 at the Department of Public Health 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut in the third floor hearing room.

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Patricia C. Bouffard, RN, Chair  
Jason Blando, Public Member – via telephone  
Elizaida Delgado, LPN – via telephone  
Mary Dietmann, RN – via telephone  
Lisa S. Freeman, Public Member – via telephone  
Jennifer Long, APRN – via telephone  
Geraldine Marrocco, RN – via telephone  
Gina M. Reiners, RN – via telephone

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mary M. Brown, RN

**ALSO PRESENT:** Stacy Schulman, Legal Counsel to the Board, DPH  
Janet Brancifort, Public Health Services Manager, DPH  
Dana Dalton, RN, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH  
Helen Smith, RN, Nurse Consultant, DPH  
Brittany Allen, Staff Attorney, DPH – via telephone  
Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, DPH  
Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, DPH – via telephone  
Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, DPH  
Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison, DPH  
Agnieszka Salek, Hearings Liaison, DPH – via telephone

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Chair Patricia Bouffard called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

#### **CHAIR UPDATES**

Nothing to Report

#### **OPEN FORUM**

Bianca Simonera, a former student at the Porter & Chester Waterbury campus addressed the Board as to her dismissal from Porter & Chester.

Debra Hessell and Philp Krebs were present by telephone from Porter & Chester. They will communicate further with Ms. Simonera.

#### **NATIONAL COUNCIL STATE BOARDS OF NURSING**

Geraldine Marrocco, Mary Dietmann and Chair Bouffard participated in a Nurse Education Committee webinar.

#### **MINUTES**

Gina M. Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to approve the minutes from February 19, 2020 as edited. The motion passed with all in favor except Elizaida Delgado who abstained.

#### **SCHOOL ISSUES**

##### COVID-19

The Board had discussion with representatives of Connecticut registered nurse and practical nurse programs regarding issues resulting from restrictions related to COVID-19 and how the restrictions will impact clinical training for nursing students.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann that in accordance with section 20-90-47(d) of the regulations for nursing education programs, that the Board endorses and approves alternative methods for programs to provide flexibility to senior nursing students to meet clinical requirements, as provided in section 20-90-52(c), for respective program graduation and NCLEX-RN eligibility. The motion passed unanimously.

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Geraldine Marrocco, that the Board authorizes the approval of major curriculum changes, as set forth in section 20-90-47(d) of the regulations for nursing education programs, prior to a comprehensive plan being presented to the Board for review prior to the implementation of changes. The motion passed unanimously.

Sacred Heart University

May Donius was present by telephone on behalf of Sacred Heart University.

Helen Smith, RN reported on a 03/03/2020 a visit to Sacred Heart University College of Nursing subsequent to the approval of the Second Degree Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program.

Geraldine Marrocco made a motion, seconded by Gina Reiners, to approve the results from the site visit.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mary Dietmann and Jason Blando who abstained.

Porter & Chester Institute – Plan of Correction – Monthly update

Philip Krebs, Debra Hessel and Joan Feldman, Esq. were present by telephone on behalf of Porter & Chester.

Helen Smith, RN reported on site visits to Porter & Chester campuses and the monthly plan of correction update. Mr. Krebs expressed concerns with the report by Ms. Smith.

The Board requested that Porter & Chester provide a detailed written response to the report by Ms. Smith.

**MEMORANDUM OF DECISION**

Jennifer Rivers-Biltcliffe, LPN - Petition No. 2017-1043

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Mary Dietmann, to affirm the Board's decision placing Ms. Rivers-Biltcliff's license on probation for a period of one year. The motion passed with all in favor except Elizaida Delgado who abstained. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

Greg Ulrich, RN – Petition No.2018-255

Gina Reiners made a motion, seconded by Lisa Freeman, to affirm the Board's decision dismissing the charges against Mr. Ulrich. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order.

**LICENSE REINSTATEMENT REQUEST**

Margaret Weiss, RN

Dana Dalton, Supervising Nurse Consultant, DPH, presented a license reinstatement request for Margaret Weiss, RN.

Following review, the Board concurred with the DPH recommendation that Ms. Weiss' license be reinstated to probation for a period of four years with conditions including drug/alcohol screening, therapy and employer evaluations, and attendance at AA/NA meetings, completion of a refresher program and passing the NCLEX examination.

**MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Karina Francis, RN - Petition No. 2020-157

Staff Attorney Brittany Allen presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Karina Francis. Ms. Francis was not present and was not represented.

Mary Dietmann moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension in that respondent's continued practice as a nurse is a clear and immediate danger to public health, safety and welfare. The motion was seconded by Gina Reiners and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order. A hearing will be scheduled for April 15, 2020.

Colleen Gallagher, LPN - Petition No. 2020-76

Staff Attorney Linda Fazzina presented the Board with a Motion for Summary Suspension for Colleen Gallagher. Ms. Gallagher was not present and was not represented.

Geraldine Marrocco moved to grant the Department's Motion for Summary Suspension in that respondent's continued practice as a nurse is a clear and immediate danger to public health, safety and welfare. The motion was seconded by Mary Dietmann and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Summary Suspension Order. A hearing will be scheduled for April 15, 2020.

Vanessa Clough, RN - Petition No: 2020 111

Staff Attorney Leslie Scoville presented the Board with a Motion to Withdraw Statement of Charges in Lieu of the Motion for Summary Suspension for Vanessa Clough. Ms. Clough was not present and was not represented.

Ms. Clough surrendered her license on March 16, 2020. Geraldine Marrocco moved to grant the Department's Motion to Withdraw Statement of Charges. The motion was seconded by Mary Dietmann and passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Motion to Withdraw Statement of Charges-

**CONSENT ORDERS**

Dianne Mealy, RN - Petition No: 2019-835

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Dianne Mealy, RN.

Ms. Mealy was not present and was not represented by counsel.

Gina Reiners moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order. The motion passed. Chair Bouffard signed the Order which imposes a reprimand and probation for a period of six months.

Tabitha Banker, LPN - Petition No: 2018-557

Leslie Scoville, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Tabatha Banker, LPN.

Ms. Banker was present by telephone with Attorney Cody Guarnieri.

This matter will be added to the April agenda after edits are made.

Jill Cavanaugh, RN - Petition No: 2018-443

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Jill Cavanaugh, RN.

Ms. Cavanaugh and her attorney were not present.

Gina Reiners moved, and Lisa Freeman seconded, to approve the Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order which imposes a reprimand and probation for a period of one year.

Susan Romatzick, RN - Petition No. 2019-628

Linda Fazzina, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of Susan Romatzick, RN. Ms. Romatzick was present by telephone.

Geraldine Marrocco moved, and Mary Dietmann seconded, to approve the Consent Order. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Bouffard signed the Order which imposes a reprimand and probation for a period of six months

William Meister, RN - Petition No: 2018-733

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney, Department of Public Health presented a Consent Order in the matter of William Meister, RN. Attorney John Denver was present by telephone on behalf of Mr. Meister.

Geraldine Marrocco moved, and Jennifer Long seconded, to approve the Consent Order. The motion passed. Chair Bouffard signed the Order which imposes probation for a period of four years.

**HEARINGS**

Judith Cullen, RN - Petition No. 2016- 1160

Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney was present by telephone for the Department of Public Health.

Judith Cullen was present by telephone but was not represented.

Gina M. Reiners made a motion, seconded by Jennifer Long, to grant Ms. Cullen's request to modify the frequency of urine screens required by an April 17, 2017 Memorandum of Decision

The motion was made on the record and passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was the unanimous decision of the Board Members present to adjourn this meeting at 11:56 a.m.

Patricia C. Bouffard, D.N.Sc., Chair  
Board of Examiners for Nursing